

COR-98

August 1, 2008

Mary Nichols
California Air Resources Board
1001 "T" Street
PO Box 2817
Sacramento, Ca 95812

RE: AB 32 Scoping Plan: Sustainable and local food systems reduce carbon emissions

Dear Chairperson Nichols and Members of the California Air Resources Board,

I am writing on behalf of myself ^{*} (your org) to urge you to take a more comprehensive and effective approach to addressing the role of sustainable agriculture and local food systems in the state's strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We call on the Air Resources Board, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and city and county governments to adopt a wide range of policy, regulatory, research and funding measures that support:

- Organic, water-and-energy-efficient sustainable farming practices;
- Local food production, distribution and consumption, especially to meet the needs of underserved low-income communities; and
- On farm production of wind and solar energy.

These practices will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide many additional benefits, including increased tax revenue for cities and counties, better air and water quality, improved farm worker and public health, reduced medical costs, and the creation of local green collar jobs. Further, one recent paper concluded that "Organic, sustainable agriculture that localizes food systems has the potential to mitigate nearly thirty percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and save one-sixth of global energy use."

We understand that there are a range of regulatory and market based options available to the State Government to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Given their lack of effectiveness in other regions, we do not support Cap and Trade and Cap and Auction-based approaches. We are supportive of approaches that:

- Effectively, rapidly and efficiently reduces carbon emissions in the timeframe outlined by law;
- Do not increase the emissions of other health harming pollutants;
- Have strong enforcement mechanisms, including criminal and civil consequences for entities that violate regulations, as well as large emitters of carbon pollution
- Ensure we transition completely away from a fossil-fuel based economy that disproportionately harms low-income communities and communities of color to one that is efficient and run on sustainable energy technologies;
- Are democratic, meaning that Californians have a say in all major efforts to reduce carbon emissions;
- Support early and current adopters of low-carbon practices, such as today's organic farmer and cities and counties enacting carbon action plans, and
- Do not give away free or drastically cost-reduced polluting rights to big polluters.

We look forward to an implementation of the California Global Warming Solutions Act that supports a low-carbon, sustainable and just food system with meaningful, effective and democratic regulatory approaches.

Yours Sincerely,

Jim Yarbrough
*Jim Yarbrough * And many people I know.*

